THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) to (d) The Supreme Court, in its Judgement dated 20.01.2005 on the Writ Petition filed by Shri Brahm Dutt challenging certain provisions of the Competition Act, 2002, while disposing of the Writ Petition, had allowed the Central Government to make amendments in the Competition Act, 2002, to ensure consistency with constitutional provisions. Appropriate amendments to the Competition Act, in light of the Supreme Court judgement, are under examination.

Establishment of centres of corporate excellence

125. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Centre has established or is considering to establish Centres of Corporate Excellence (CCE) in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard, with names of the States where CCEs have been established or proposed to be established and terms and conditions governing establishment of the CCEs;

(c) whether the State Government of Karnataka has requested for establishment of a CCE in Bangalore with offers of adequate fund or land; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The request of State Government of Karnataka was received about three years back, which could not be considered. A policy decision was taken by the Government of India after consultation with the concerned stakeholders, to set up a National Foundation for Corporate Governance in the form of a not-for-profit Trust. Accordingly, the Foundation has been registered as a Trust under the Indian Trust Act, 1882 on 01.10.2003. The Foundation will provide a platform to deliberate issues relating to good

corporate governance, sensitize corporate leaders, develop a framework for corporate governance reforms, and provide for research, training, capacity building, advocacy etc. in the field of corporate governance. It will also develop strategies that enhance value for stakeholders and ensure long term benefits to the shareholders and the society at large; and also develop a code of best practices for corporate governance taking into consideration the international examples and promote its voluntary adoption by corporate bodies.

Filing of returns by companies

126. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are a large number of companies which are not filing their statutory returns with Registrars of Companies;

(b) if so, the number of such companies during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure the filing of the returns by these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of companies which have not filed statutory returns with the Registrars of Companies during the last three years is given below:

2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
243680	274164	303107

(c) Additional fees are charged for delayed filing of returns to discourage companies from filing after the due date. Default notices are issued and prosecutions are launched under the relevant provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 by the Registrars of Companies for non-filing of statutory returns by companies.

Ministry of Company Affairs (MCA) has launched "MCA 21 e-Governance Project" in March 2005. The Project envisages *inter alia* easy and secure online access to companies for filing of annual returns. The Project, when fully implemented, will facilitate companies to electronically file their annual returns.